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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,297	10/02/2001	Sean S. Chen	NSC-P05052	9656
7590	06/02/2005		EXAMINER	
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP			CUNNINGHAM, TERRY D	
Third Floor			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Two North Market Street				2816
San Jose, CA 95113				

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/970,297	CHEN, SEAN S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Terry D. Cunningham	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-8,11-13,15-21 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-8,11-13,15-21 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-13, 15-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 4, the new language therein is no understood. Firstly, it is not understood whether the “voltage pull-up device” is “located intermediate” to the “band- gap reference” or the “buffer circuit” or both. Further, there is no support for this new language. As is well known, a schematic discloses connection of elements, not location of elements. As seen, the schematic of Figs. 2 and 3 show the connection of the circuit elements, not locations thereof.

Examiner has fully considered Applicant’s remarks for the above rejection and has not found them to be persuasive. While the rejection included a typographical error, this was not the emphasis of the rejection. The new language is clearly attempting to recite location of the elements, rather than circuit connection (due to the word “located”). As stated above, a schematic is intended to show connection of elements, not location. Examiner notes that if this language is attempting to recite circuit connections, then this language is clearly redundant. This is due to the fact that “intermediate” and “between” have effectively the same meaning.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15 are rejected for the reasons discussed above with claim 1.

Claims 15-21 and 23 are rejected for similar reasons as claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-13, 15-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadanka et al. (USPN 5,621,308) in view of newly cited art to Mietus (USPN 5,666,046). Kadanka et al. disclose, in Fig. 2, a circuit comprising: “a band-gap reference unit (73, less 54)”, “a buffer circuit (54)”, and “a voltage pull-up device (70)”, wherein the “voltage pull-up device” has a “transistors (48)”. Kadanka et al. does not expressly disclose that transistor 46 has a “less than 1.0 V_{BE}”. However, it is notoriously well known, as expressly taught by Mietus (e.g., see Col. 1, lines 56-67), to use a voltage of 0.7 volts for the expect advantage of using a lower supply voltage (e.g., 0.8 volts). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to manufacture transistor 48 with “less than 1.0 V_{BE}” for the expected advantage allowing for a lower supply voltage.

Examiner has fully considered Applicant’s remarks for the above rejection and has not found them to be persuasive. As provided for the record previously, the claim clearly meets the claim recitation. Element 73 clearly operates as a “band-gap reference unit”, element 54 is clearly a “buffer” and element 70 is clearly a “voltage pull-up device”. Further, with respect to Applicant’s contention concerning the terms “intermediate” and “between”. Clearly, element 70 has one terminal connected to the emitter of 52 of the “band-gap reference unit” and another

terminal connected to the collector of the "buffer". This clearly would be considered "intermediate" or "between".

With respect to Applicant's arguments concerning motivation, Applicant is applying improper requirement for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Clearly, of the secondary is not required to teach use of a "pull-up device". The secondary reference is used to teach setting of a threshold voltage is a generic transistor device, not a "pull-up device", per se. This is deemed to be more than sufficient suggestion in the reference.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 571-272-1742. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC
June 1, 2005


Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816